



Ernie Fletcher
Governor

LaJuana S. Wilcher, Secretary
Environmental and Public
Protection Cabinet

Christopher L. Lilly
Commissioner
Department of Public Protection

Commonwealth of Kentucky
**Environmental and Public Protection
Cabinet**

Public Service Commission
211 Sower Blvd.
P.O. Box 615
Frankfort, Kentucky 40602-0615
Telephone: (502) 564-3940
Fax: (502) 564-3460

Mark David Goss
Chairman

Teresa Hill
Vice Chairman

Gregory Coker
Commissioner

NEWS RELEASE

Contact:
Andrew Melnykovich
(502) 564-3940 x208
(502) 330-5981 (cell)

PSC TO HOLD HEARING ON ALLTEL MERGER
Company merging landline business with Valor Communications Group

FRANKFORT, Ky. (April 19, 2006) – The Kentucky Public Service Commission (PSC) will conduct a hearing on the proposed merger of Alltel Corp.'s Kentucky landline operations with VALOR Communications Group, Inc.

The hearing will begin at 9 a.m. EDT on Tuesday, April 25, at the PSC offices at 211 Sower Boulevard in Frankfort. It will be broadcast live via the Internet and may be viewed at the PSC Web site, <http://psc.ky.gov/sitemap.htm#AV>.

Alltel's two Kentucky subsidiaries have over 540,000 customers in 48 counties. Most are in Lexington and surrounding areas, but the company also serves Elizabethtown, Shepherdsville and Ashland.

The proposed merger includes Alltel's landline operations in 15 states, as well as the company's competitive local telephone service and long-distance operations. Alltel's wireless operations are not included. If the transaction is completed, Alltel will become a wireless company only.

Valor, headquartered in Irving, Texas, has about 530,000 landline customers in 260 mostly rural communities in Arkansas, Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico. The merged company, to be known as Windstream Communications, will have about 3.4 million customers. It will be headquartered in central Arkansas.

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If approved, the merger would be the third transfer of the Alltel system in Kentucky in the last seven years. Alltel acquired the system from Verizon in 2002. Verizon purchased the system from GTE in 1999.

Before approving the transfer of a utility, the PSC must determine that the new owners have the managerial, technical and financial ability to operate the company. Kentucky law also requires the PSC to decide whether the transfer is in the public interest.

There will be an opportunity for brief public comments at the beginning of the hearing.

Written comments also will be accepted at the hearing. Written comments also may be mailed to the PSC at P.O. Box 615, Frankfort, KY 40602, faxed to (502) 564-9625 or sent by e-mail from the PSC Web site, psc.ky.gov.

Documents in the case are available on the PSC Web site. The case number is 2005-00534.

The PSC is an agency within the Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet. It regulates more than 1,500 gas, water, sewer, electric and telecommunication utilities operating in the Commonwealth of Kentucky and has approximately 110 employees.

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